Quick Guide

Compiled by Lisa-Jayne Lewis for ESC Insight/ESC Buzz



Junior Eurovision – a brief history.

Inspired by a Danish children's show in 2000, expanded to Scandinavia. Junior Eurovision began in 2003 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the first winner was Croatia. The contest has been through many changes in its 15 years, and whilst there are similarities between the Eurovision Song Contest and Junior Eurovision Song Contest, there are some very distinct differences too.

Junior Eurovision Table:

Year	Host City/Country	Winning Country	Song Singer	Runner up
2003	Copenhagen, Denmark	Croatia	Ti si moja prva ljubav Dino Jelušić	Spain
2004	Lillehammer, Norway	Spain	Antes muerta que sencilla María Isabel	UK
2005	Hasselt, Belgium	Belarus	My vmeste Ksenia Sitnik	Spain
2006	Bucharest, Romania	Russia	Vesenniy Jazz Tolmachevy Sisters	Belarus
2007	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Belarus	S druz'yami Alexey Zhigalkovich	Armenia
2008	Limassol, Cyprus	Georgia	Bzz Bzikebi	Ukraine
2009	Kyiv, Ukraine	Netherlands	Clack Clack Ralf Mackenbach	Armenia Russia
2010	Minsk, Belarus	Armenia	Mama Vladimir Arzumanyan	Russia
2011	Yerevan, Armenia	Georgia	Candy Music CANDY	Netherlands
2012	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Ukraine	Nebo Anastasiya Petryk	Georgia
2013	Kyiv, Ukraine	Malta	The Start Gaia Cauchi	Ukraine
2014	Marsa, Malta	Italy	Tu primo grande amore Vincenzo Cantiello	Bulgaria
2015	Sofia, Bulgaria	Malta	Not My Soul Destiny Chukunyere	Armenia

Differences:

Bid to host, although winning country is given first refusal. First winning country to host was Armenia in 2011.

Backing vocals may be included on the backing track, they do not need to be performed live.

Eight performers are allowed on stage at Junior Eurovision, only six at the Eurovision Song Contest.



Since 2005 all countries have received 12 points automatically (making a finishing score of 12, the same as 0, although this has never happened.

The song must be sung in any of the national languages of the country it is representing, although up to 25% of lyrics are allowed in another language.

Performers must be nationals of the country, or have lived there for at least 2 years.

The song must last a minimum of 2 minutes 45 second, there is no minimum length at the Eurovision Song Contest.

Participation

Only active member broadcasters of the EBU are permitted to take part and vote in the contest, though the contest has been screened in several non-participating countries.

Participation in the contest tends to change dramatically each year. The original Scandinavian broadcasters left the contest in 2006 because they found the treatment of the contestants unethical, and revived the MGP Nordic competition, which had not been produced since the Junior Eurovision Song Contest began. Out of the thirty-seven countries that have participated at least once, only 2 countries – Belarus & The Netherlands – have competed in every Junior Eurovision so far.

2016 Host City: Valetta, Malta

Established March 1566 Capital City 1571 Founded by Jean de Valette

Population: 6444 Mayor: Alexei Dingli

Factoids!

50 miles from Italy, 107 miles from Tunisia & 207 miles from Libya. Smallest capital city in the European Union. 85% of the city was bombed during World War 2. Valletta Grand Harbour is the deepest harbour in the Mediterranean.

2016 Venue: The Mediterranean Conference Centre

Built as a hospital in 1574, the hospital was the reason that Malta became known as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' it remained this after until its renovation in 1918. From 1920 – 1940 the building served as the headquarters of the Malta Police Force. The building was evacuated during World War 2, where it took four direct hits. In 1950 it was used as a theatre for a year, it then became a school and an examination centre, until finally it was properly rebuilt and then reopened as the Mediterranean Conference Centre in 1979.





Artist	Klesta Qehaja
Title (Native Language)	Besoj
Title English	I Believe
Language of Performance	Albanian
Composer	(M) Adrian Hila (L) Pandi Laço

Artist Profile	Klesta was born in 2006 (age 11) in Kosovo and started singing at the age of four. She currently studies music in Pristina. Since 2010 she has been a member of the group Xixellonja Fireflies and has participated in many contests including winning first prize at the Pristina Kids Festival as well as Shining Star in Turkey and Golden Microphone in Slovenia.

Song Description	Soft ballad building into each chorus and into the end.

Selection Process	Nat Final (100% jury) Festivali 52 Këngës për Femije
Date announced	1 June 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
Years Competed	2012, 2015
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	3
Best Position	5 th (2015) 93 Points
Position 2015	5 th
Artist/Song 2015	Mishela Rapo // Dambaje
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	NQ
Artist/Song	Enida Tarifa // Fairytale



ARMENIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Anahit & Mary
Title (Native Language)	Tarber
Title English	Different
Language of Performance	Armenian & English
Composer	(M) Nick Egibyan (L) Avet Barseghyan

Anahit Adamyan & Mary Vardanyan, both are 13 years old. Anahit was born in Sochi, Russia and has competed
in The Voice Kids Russia and Battle of Talents. Mary is
from Vardenis in Eatern Armenia, near the Azeri border and has taken part in many Armenian and International music festivals. The two have very different personalities
and styles, on making the music video Mary said "It was a lot of fun to 'style fight' with Anahit on the set!"

Song Description	Up tempo dance/pop with soul, funk, lounge and R & B vibe, it's a bit retro but in a good way!
	vibe, ii s a bii teilo bot iit a good way:

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	10 August 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	10
Best Position	1st (2010) 120 points
Position 2015	2 nd
Artist/Song 2015	Michael Varosyan // Love
Host venue	2011 Yerevan

Finishing Position	7th
Artist/Song	Iveta Muckuchyan // Lovewave



AUSTRALIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Alexa Curtis
Title (Native Language)	We Are
Title English	We Are
Language of Performance	English
Composer	Ali Tamposi, Tania Doko & Boi-1da

Artist Profile	Alexa Curtis is 12 years old and comes from Brisbane on Australia's Gold Coast. She won The Voice Kids Australia in 2014 as a member of Delta Goodrem's team. Alexa is already signed to Universal Music and earlier this year she sang the theme song for the Powerpuff Girls Reboot in Australia
	in Australia

Song Descript	on	Up tempo, up beat, positive song, a classic strong vocal lead and pop beat.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	Artist: 20 September 2016 Song: 7 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2015
Years Competed	2015
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	2
Best Position	8 th (2015)
Position 2015	8 th
Artist/Song 2015	Bella Paige // My Girls
Host venue	-

Finishing P	osition	2nd
Artist/Song	g	Dami Im // Sound of Silence



BELARUS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Alexander Minyonok
Title (Native Language)	Musyka moih pobed, Музыка моих побед
Title English	Music is My Only Way
Language of Performance	Russian
Composer	(M) Kirill Ermakov, Alexander Minyonok
	(L) Roman Kolodko, Alexander Minyonok

Artist Profile	Alexander is 13 years old and has grown up on the Belarusian music scene, his mother worked for 'Slavianski Bazaar' a large annual outdoor music festival and contest, which incidentally was won by Ruslana in 1996. Alexander is joined on stage by the other members of his dance band 'Sensation'
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Song Description	Funky pop number with hip-hop street styling and a catchy tune. Sung entirely in Russian, this song also boasts a heavy drum section in the middle.
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Selection Process	Nat Final 50/50 Jury/Public
Date announced	26 August 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	14
Best Position	1st (2005) 149 points (2007) 137 points
Position 2015	4 th
Artist/Song 2015	Ruslan Aslanov // Volshebstvo (Magic)
Host venue	2010 Minsk

Finishing Position	NQ
Artist/Song	IVAN // Learn How To Fly



BULGARIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Lidia Ganeva
Title (Native Language)	Valsheben den, Вълшебен ден
Title English	Magical Day
Language of Performance	Bulgarian
Composer	(M) Vladimir "Grafa" Ampov
	(L) Vladimir "Grafa" Ampov & Lliya Grigorov

Artist Profile	Lidia is 10 years old and was born in Plodiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria. Bulgaria. She attended the Armenian school in her hometown and has been involved in music from a very early age; her parents are musicians with Bulgaria's famous folk ensemble, <i>Trakiya</i> . At six she joined the "Art Voice Centre" music school. With Rumi Ivanova as her singing teacher, Lidia won a total of 22 first, 4 second and 2 third prizes in national and international festivals.
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Song Description	Sweet with a nice beat to it and firmly fits the kid-pop
	genre.

Selection Process	Nat Final 50/50 Jury/Public
Date announced	Artist: 11 June 2016 Song: 14 September 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007, 2008, 2011, 2014 - present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	6
Best Position	2 nd (2014)147 points
Position 2015	9 th
Artist/Song 2015	Gabriela Yordanova & Ivan Stoyanov // Colour of Hope
Host venue	2015 Sofia

Finishing Position	4th
Artist/Song	Poli Genova // If Love Was a Crime



CYPRUS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	George Michaelides
Title (Native Language)	Dance Floor
Title English	Dance Floor
Language of Performance	Greek & English
Composer	(M) Andreas Anastasiou
	(L) Andreas Anastasiou & George Michaelides

Artist Profile	George was born in Paphos and he is 13 years old. He has a wealth of performance experience both in Cyprus and the UK. In 2014 George travelled to
	Germany for the UDO European Street dance Championships and ranked 3rd place in the Under 12's Advance Solo Category. George is also active in martial arts and currently holds a blue belt in judo.

Song Description	Something quite different to most others at this year's JESC, this is club sound at its most innocent.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	17 September 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003, 2004, 2006 – 2009, 2014
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	8
Best Position	8 th (2004) (2006)
Position 2015	-
Artist/Song 2015	-
Host venue	2008 Limassol

Finishing Position	21st
Artist/Song	Minus One // Alter Ego



GEORGIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Mariam Mamadashvili
Title (Native Language)	Mzeo
Title English	Sun
Language of Performance	Georgian
Composer	(M) Giga Kukhianidze (L) Maka Davitaia

Artist Profile	Mariam Mamadashvili is ten years old and has been performing since she was four years old. She studied at the Bzikebistudio in Georgia and also the Evgeni Mikeladze State Central Music School. Mariam now live in the United States (since 2015) and studies at the Broadway Method Academy.
	the Bzikebistudio in Georgia and also the Evgeni Mikeladze State Central Music School. Mariam now live in the United States (since 2015) and studies at the

Song Description	Beautifully sung soft ballad, with heavy piano lead and strings supporting. Has a true vintage feel to it. Mariam has amazing vocal control and handles the complicated note transitions like a pro.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	Artist: 30 September 2016 Song: 24 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	10
Best Position	1st (2008) 154 points (2011) 108 points
Position 2015	10 th
Artist/Song 2015	The Virus // Gabede
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	18th
Artist/Song	Nika Kocharov & Young Georgian Lolitaz // Midnight
	Gold



IRELAND

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Zena Donnelly
Title (Native Language)	Bríce Ar Bhríce
Title English	Brick By Brick
Language of Performance	Irish
Composer	Zena Donnelly

Artist Profile	Zena is 14. When she was 7 she sang on stage in Dublin with Witney Houston. Zena beat 32 acts to become Ireland's Junior Eurovision participant and was selected by an expert panel consisting of previous Irish representatives in the Eurovision Song Contest. She placed second in the National Selection in 2015.
	Zena has won RTE's Nationwide TV Talent Competition Show Off or Get Off, performed for Music Inc., and played the lead
	role in Annie The Musical at the National Concert Hall.

Song Description	A fusion of traditional Irish and pop, risky as the Irish style of
	singing is not necessarily appreciated outside of the Celtic
	countries. Jeopardy in live performance of this style, could go
	either way.

Selection Process	Nat Final
Date announced	6 November 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2015
Years Competed	2015
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	2
Best Position	12 th (2015)
Position 2015	12 th
Artist/Song 2015	Aimee Banks // Realta na mara
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	NQ
Artist/Song	Nicky Byrne // Sunlight



ISRAEL

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Shir & Tim
Title (Native Language)	Follow My Heart
Title English	Follow My Heart
Language of Performance	Hebrew & English
Composer	(M) Dor Daniel (L) Noam Horev

Artist Profile	Shira Frieman (13) and TimoTi Sannikov (13) Galilee native Shira participated in the third season of Israel's prime time TV singing competition for children, Music School,
	where she worked with various singers and composers. Shira also gives her voice to dubbing work, such as the Hebrew version of Disney's <i>Finding Dory</i> .
	Tim is from Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv. In addition to Hebrew and French, he speaks Russian and English. TimoTi was a cast member of the Israeli rendition of the musical <i>Billy Elliot</i> . He
	plays the character of Billy's best friend, Michael, the show is a huge commercial hit in Israel.

Song Description	Pop ballad, starts with Tim and adds Shir's vocal at v2. Some
	very nice harmonies their voices complement each other
	very well. Written in a nice key for them both.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	26 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
Years Competed	2012
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	2
Best Position	8 th (2012)
Position 2015	-
Artist/Song 2015	-
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	14th
Artist/Song	Hovi Star // Made of Stars





Artist	Fiamma Boccia
Title (Native Language)	Cara Mamma – Dear Mom
Title English	Dear Mom
Language of Performance	Italian & English
Composer	(M) Marco lardella, Francesco Spadoni & Alessandro Ghironi
	(L) Marco lardella, Francesco Spadoni & Fiamma Boccia

Artist Profile	Fiamma lives in Florence with her parents and 14-year-old sister Emilia who is also a singer. She performed as a "voce Bianca" in the Opera Festival of Florence. Now she is part of the children's polyphonic choir, il Piccolo Coro Melograno di Firenze. Fiamma also sang as solo at the 56° Zecchino d'oro. Fiamma has two cats called Mimì and Musetta

Song Description	Piano & string ballad with strong powerful vocal. Excellent vocal control and maturity of voice.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	11 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2014
Years Competed	2014 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	3
Best Position	1st (2014) 159 points
Position 2015	16 th
Artist/Song 2015	Chiara & Martina Scarpari // Viva
Host venue	

Finishing Position	16th
Artist/Song	Francesca Michelin // No Degree of Separation



MACEDONIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Martija Stanojkovic
Title (Native Language)	Ljubovta ne void
Title English	Love Will Lead Our Way
Language of Performance	Macedonian & English
Composer	(M) Aleksander Masevski
	(L) Aleksander Masevski & Martija Stanojkovic

Artist Profile	Martija is 14, she recently finished second in the talent show <i>Pink Stars</i> , which is popular in the Balkan region. When Martija was four years old she joined a dance club called <i>Ultra</i> , and she was dancing for seven years before she entered <i>Pink Stars</i> . Her main message for her fans that they should love themselves as they are and to believe in themselves.

Song Description	Synth pad pop. Up tempo pop song with heavy driving
	base. Martija has that typical Balkan sounding vocal
	which works very well with this song.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	Artist: 24 July 2016 Song: 10 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2011, 2013, 2015
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	12
Best Position	5 th (2007)(2008)
Position 2015	17 th
Artist/Song 2015	Ivana Petkovska & Magdalena Aleksovska // Pletenka
Host venue	

Finishing Position	NQ
Artist/Song	Kaliopi // Dona





Artist	Christina Magrin
Title (Native Language)	Parachute
Title English	Parachute
Language of Performance	English
Composer	(M) Florent Boshnjaku
	(L) Matt Muxu Mercieca & Christina Magrin

Artist Profile	Christina is 13, she studies vocal technique under her
	mother's guidance, who is also a passionate musician
	and a lecturer by profession. At three years of age she
	was played the part of 'Dora the Explorer' and sang a
	solo during a University of Malta Theatre Production,
	Infanta. Earlier this year she sat for Grade 8 exam of the
	Trinity of London College, achieving recognition from
	the College as the youngest student ever to take this
	grade and the highest mark ever achieved.

Song Description	Pop/Dance, plenty of musical effects in the track.
	Strong vocal.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	Artist: 16 July 2016 Song: 27 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – 2010, 2013 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	12
Best Position	1st (2015) 185 points (2013) 130 points
Position 2015	1st
Artist/Song 2015	Destiny // Not My Soul
Host venue	2014 Marsa, 2016 Valetta

Finishing Position	12th
Artist/Song	Ira Losco // Walk on Water



THE NETHERLANDS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Kisses
Title (Native Language)	Kisses & Dancin'
Title English	Kisses & Dancin'
Language of Performance	Dutch
Composer	(M) Joost Griffioen, Stas Swaczyna & Hansen Tomas
	(L) Joost Griffioen & Hansen Tomas

Artist Profile	Kisses is a girl band consisting of Kymora, Stefania and Sterre. Constructed specifically for JESC 2016 from a contest on the Dutch Junior Eurosong YouTube channel. The band is representative of different people groups in the Netherlands.

Song Description	Dance floor filler! Kind of cheesy pop, but great
	harmony and energy.

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	Artist: 27 May 2016 Song: 25 July 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	14
Best Position	1st (2009) 121 points
Position 2015	15 th
Artist/Song 2015	Shalisa // Million Lights
Host venue	2007 Rotterdam, 2012 Amsterdam

Finishing Position	11th
Artist/Song	Douwe Bob // Slow Down



POLAND

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Olivia Wieczorek
Title (Native Language)	Nie zapomnij
Title English	Do Not Forget
Language of Performance	Polish
Composer	(M) Piotr Rubik (L) Dominik Grabowski

Artist Profile	Olivia is 14. She began singing at the age of five when
	she took part in a Christmas singing competition and
	won. Following this she competed in various contests,
	achieving good results. Olivia's biggest breakthrough
	came when she won a popular talent show for children
	in Poland from this she went on to perform at many
	concerts in Poland and around the world with a
	symphony orchestra and choir. Olivia dedicates her
	Junior Eurovision performance to her mum.

Song Description	Vocal lead ballad, piano lead with strings and later
	some military style drum work. Requires lots of vocal
	control & there some big notes that will need to be
	managed well.

Selection Process	Nat Final
Date announced	15 October 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003, 2004
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	3
Best Position	16 th (2003)
Position 2015	-
Artist/Song 2015	-
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	8th
Artist/Song	Michal Spak // Color of Your Life



RUSSIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Water of Life Project
Title (Native Language)	Water of Life
Title English	Water of Life
Language of Performance	Russian & English
Composer	Rita Dakota

Artist Profile	Lead singer Sofia Finsenko is 13 and has already taken part in many international competitions and her original songs regularly broadcast on Russian television. Alongside lead vocalist Sofia, Sasha Abrameytseva and sisters Christina and Madonna Abramova also form the Water of Life Project.
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Song Description	Pop anthem/up tempo ballad with powerful female vocal lead (something we've come to expect a lot of
	at ESC and JESC)

Selection Process	Nat Final 50/50 Jury/Public (web)
Date announced	16 August 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2005
Years Competed	2005 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	12
Best Position	1st (2006) 154 points
Position 2015	6 th
Artist/Song 2015	Mikhail Smirnov // Mechta
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	3rd
Artist/Song	Sergey Lazarev // You're the Only One



SERBIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Dunja Jeličić
Title (Native Language)	U La La La
Title English	U La La La
Language of Performance	Serbian
Composer	(M) Vladimir Graić
	(L) Loentina Vukomanović & Dunja Jeličić

Artist Profile	Dunja is 12 years old, she'll be 13 in two weeks' time! At
	the age of six she became a member of the children's
	choir, Čarolija, and performed many concerts as a
	soloist. She was also a contestant in the competition <i>Prvi</i>
	srpski talenat (First Talents of Serbia). In 2014, Dunja
	made it to the semi-finals of the big talent show for
	children, Pinkove zvezdice. She is currently engaged in
	preparing the musical based on the life of Nikola Tesla;
	Tesla: The Secret of Electropy (Tesla: Tajna Elektropije)
	where she will be playing one of the leading roles.

Song Description	Up tempo 8 beat pop, great key for Dunja's voice. Fun, energetic, slightly retro (in a good way!)

Selection Process	Internal
Date announced	14 September 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006-2010, 2014 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	8
Best Position	3 rd (2007)(2010)
Position 2015	7 th
Artist/Song 2015	Lena Stamenkvic // Lenina Pesma
Host venue	-

Finishing Position	18th
Artist/Song	Zaa Sania Vujić // Goodbye (Shelter)



UKRAINE

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016

Artist	Sofia Rol
Title (Native Language)	Planet Craves For Love
Title English	Planet Craves For Love
Language of Performance	Ukranian & English
Composer	(M) Ruslan Kvinta
	(L) Vitalii Kurivskyi, Sandra Bjurman,
	Yevgeny Matyushenko & Sofia Rol

Artist Profile	Sofia Rol is 14 years old and comes from Kyiv. When she was four Sofia started attending the Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble, Zerniatko. In 2008 she started working over her first album, Sofia Rol – for the Children of Ukraine. In 2014 Sofia finished first in the Kyiv Art Time Contest and also participated in the Ukrainian national selection for Junior Eurovision. In 2015 she represented Ukraine at the Junior Sanremo Music Festival.
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Song Description	Ballad with strong vocal lead. Plenty of strings with
	guitar plucking those steel strings! Classic ballad but
	does have a fresh modern twist to it.

Selection Process	Nat Final (jury/public)
Date announced	10 September 2016

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006 –present
No. of JESC (incl 2016)	11
Best Position	1st (2012) 138 points
Position 2015	11th
Artist/Song 2015	Anna Trincher // Pochny z sebe
Host venue	2009 Kyiv, 2013 Kyiv

Finishing Position	1st
Artist/Song	Jamala // 1944



